Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 052365

53
ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08 SPC-03

AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SIL-01 LAB-06

/170 R

66604
DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/FSE:FAMAU:CR
12/26/73 EXT. 20536
APPROVED BY T - MR. DONALDSON
EB/ORF - MR. KATZ
EB - MR. ARMSTRONG
---------- 000885
R 302343Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 252365

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION LINES 3 AND 4, PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG
SUBJECT: COAL SHIPMENTS TO HOOGOVENS STEEL MILL

REF: THE HAGUE 2465, THE HAGUE 5563

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO ECONOMIC
MINISTER LUBBERS FROM UNDERSECTARY DONALDSON:

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. MINISTER:

3. AS PROMISED AT OUR LAST MEETING INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN
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PAGE 02 STATE 052365

MADE CONCERNING THE COKING COAL EXPORT PROGRAMS OF THREE
AMERICAN COAL COMPANIES SUPPLYING HOOGOVENS. ONLY ONE FIRM,
THE EASTERN ASSOCIATED COAL COMPANY, ADMITS TO BEING
SUBSTANTIALLY BEHIND IN MEETING ITS SCHEDULE OF SHIPMENTS.
THAT COMPANY STATES THAT STRIKES AND RELATED INDUSTRIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

STRIFE HAVE REDUCED ITS ANTICIPATED PRODUCTION BY ONE-HALF AND THAT ITS AVAILABLE COAL IS BEING PRO-RATED TO ALL CUSTOMERS, INCLUDING HOOGOVENS. THE OTHER TWO COMPANIES HAVE ADVISED US THAT THEY ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MEETING THEIR COMMITMENTS. ALL THREE FIRMS EXPECT, ALBEIT WITH DIFFICULTY, TO MEET THEIR CONTRACTURAL OBLIGATIONS TO HOOGOVENS IN 1974.

4. MY INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE PROBABLE AVAILABILITY OF STEAMING COAL FOR EXPORT TO THE NETHERLANDS HAVE BEEN LESS ENCOURAGING. PRODUCTIVITY IS LOWER THAN EXPECTED. ALL PRODUCTION HAS APPARENTLY ALREADY BEEN CONTRACTED FOR AND WE HAVE FOUND NO ONE WILLING TO ENTER INTO ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS. OF COURSE, IF SUPPLY PROBLEMS IN THE U.S. AND THE NETHERLANDS BECOME CRITICAL WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ORDER SOME DIVERSIONS. AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NO LEGAL AUTHORITY TO TAKE SUCH ACTION.

5. I BELIEVE OUR INQUIRIES WILL RESULT IN REDOUBLED EFFORTS BY THE AMERICAN FIRMS CONCERNED TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF COKING COAL TO HOOGOVENS IN 1974. WE HAVE OFFERED TO HELP THEM RESOLVE IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER ANY BUNKERING OR OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE. IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY ALL CONSIDER HOOGOVENS AN IMPORTANT AND VALUED CUSTOMER.

6. PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO INFORM ME IF I CAN BE OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER. WE ARE COLLECTING THE DATA YOU REQUESTED ON ENRICHED URANIUM AND HOPE TO FORWARD IT TO YOU SOON. IT WAS MY SINCERE PLEASURE TO MEET YOU IN THE HAGUE AND I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE HELP DURING MY VISIT AND ALSO WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

7. WARM REGARDS, WILLIAM H. DONALDSON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, EXPORT CONTROLS, NEGOTIATIONS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE052365
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/ORF/FSE:FAMAU:CR
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741276/abbrzcpv.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: THE HAGUE 2465, THE HAGUE 5563
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COAL SHIPMENTS TO HOOGOVENS STEEL MILL
TAGS: ETRD, GR, GATT
To: THE HAGUE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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